

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 207441
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: IO/UNA:JFTEFFT
APPROVED BY: S/S-O:RSNIDER
-----108768 161745Z /46
O 161625Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 9610

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207441

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 5940 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN,
BAGHDAD, CAIRO, DAMASCUS 15 AUG 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5940

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA
SUBJECT: THOUGHTS FROM SAUDI ARABIA ON MIDEAST PEACE

1. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE ATHERTON VISIT OF POSSIBLE INTEREST
AND SIGNIFICANCE INCLUDE:
(A) FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN 14 AUGUST ARAB NEWS ENTITLED
"ATHERTON ENDS MISSION" HAS FOLLOWING INTERESTING QUOTE:
"HOWEVER, THE KINGDOM WHICH HAS WITHHELD PUBLIC COMMENT ON
SADAT'S NINE-MONTH PEACE INITIATIVE HAS WELCOMED THE FORTH-
COMING CAMP DAVID SUMMIT. PRINCE FAHD DESCRIBED THE SUMMIT AS
'A COURAGEOUS STEP AND AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION REFLECTING THE
AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S GOOD INTENTIONS AND THE SINCERE DESIRE
OF THE UNITED STATES TO PLAY A MORE EFFECTIVE ROLE TO REACH A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 207441

JUST SOLUTION THAT COULD BRING PEACE TO THE REGION.'"
(B) PRINCE TURKI AL-FAISAL LEFT ON SATURDAY FOR TOUR OF
ARAB COUNTRIES, STOPPING IN AMMAN, DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD.
ACCORDING TO TODAY'S PRESS, HE MET ON SUNDAY WITH IRAQI
VICE PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN TO DELIVER A LETTER FROM CROWN
PRINCE FAHD, AND IT WAS ALSO STATED THAT HE BROUGHT A LETTER
FROM KING KHALID TO IRAQI PRESIDENT AHMAD HASSAN BAKR.

2. CONTINUING UNEQUIVOCAL PUBLIC SUPPORT BY SAG OF THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT IS, WE BELIEVE, SIGNIFICANT, ESPECIALLY WHEN COUPLED WITH PRINCE TURKI'S VISITS TO OTHER ARAB STATES. HERE ARE SOME OF THE REASONS:

(A) FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE SAUDIS NOW PUBLICLY SUPPORT THE SADAT-U.S. EFFORTS IN THE PEACE PROCESS, THIS SUPPORT HAS BECOME EVEN STRONGER WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME AS SHOWN BY TODAY'S PRESS, WHICH USUALLY REFLECTS WITH ACCURACY THE CURRENT THINKING OF SAG.

(B) THIS CONTINUED PUBLIC SUPPORT, ABSENT SIMILAR VIEWS OF OTHER ARAB STATES, ESPECIALLY JORDAN, IS DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL SAUDI PRACTICE--THEY ORDINARILY AVOID AT ALL COSTS GETTING IN THE MIDDLE OF A POLITICAL CONTROVERSY SUCH AS THIS.

(C) PRINCE TURKI'S HURRIED VISITS TO OTHER ARAB STATES MEANS TO US THAT SAUDIS WERE ANXIOUS TO EXPLAIN THEIR SUPPORT OF CAMP DAVID MEETING TO THEIR ARAB BROTHERS AND, IF POSSIBLE, KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM FOR ARAB UNITY BEGUN BY RECENT FAHD'S VISITS.

3. COMMENT: THE SAUDIS EVIDENTLY THINK THAT REESTABLISHMENT OF ARAB UNITY IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THEIR PUBLIC SUPPORT OF THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT. TO US, THIS IS A DISCERNIBLE CHANGE IN THEIR PREVIOUS DISINCLINATION TO SUPPORT PUBLICLY DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN GOI AND GOE. THIS DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE WATCHED AND IF POSSIBLE ENCOURAGED WHEREVER POSSIBLE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 207441

4. THE SAUDIS BELIEVE, AND WE OF COURSE CONCUR, THAT BRINGING HUSSEIN AND ASSAD INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, CESS IS AN ESSENTIAL, MONUMENTAL STEP IN THE PEACE PROCESS, ESPECIALLY IF SUCH COULD BE MADE TO HAPPEN WITHOUT REPUDIATION OF SADAT INITIATIVE. THE FACT THAT THE SAUDIS ARE WILLING TO TAKE SOME INITIATIVE AND SUFFER SOME VISIBILITY IN PROMOTING THE FIRST FAINT STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION MAY BE AN ENCOURAGING SIGN.

5. HOPEFULLY, THE SAUDIS WILL CONTINUE THIS LINE UNTIL SUMMIT AND THEREBY MINIMIZE ARAB DISSENTS AND CRITICISMS.

6. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, EXPECTATIONS WILL HAVE BEEN RAISED AND IF THERE IS NOT NOTICEABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT AT CAMP DAVID, THE SAUDIS DISILLUSIONMENT WILL BE MARKED AND IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE THEM TO CONTINUE SADAT SUPPORT.
WEST

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE207441
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNA:JFTEFFT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780335-0682
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780858/aaaabwbl.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 92ef8662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1720185
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THOUGHTS FROM SAUDI ARABIA ON MIDEAST PEACE
TAGS: PEPR, SA, XF
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/92ef8662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014